

1 Lars Evensen
Nevada Bar No. 8061
2 J. Malcom DeVoy
Nevada Bar No. 11950
3 HOLLAND & HART LLP
9555 Hillwood Drive
4 Second Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89134
5 Telephone: 702-669-4600
kevensen@hollandhart.com
6 jmdevoy@hollandhart.com

7 *Attorneys for Defendants*
8 *Juan Rivas;*
9 *ADT LLC of Delaware; and*
10 *Johnson Controls Security Solutions LLC*

11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

12 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

13 **EDYTHE MAXINE HARTMAN**, a Nevada
resident,

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 **JUAN RIVAS**, a Nevada resident; **UTC**
17 **FIRE & SECURITY AMERICAS**
18 **CORPORATION, INC.**, d/b/a
19 **INTERLOGIX**, a corporation; **ADT LLC OF**
20 **DELAWARE**, d/b/a **ADT**, a foreign limited
21 liability company; **JOHNSON CONTROLS**
22 **SECURITY SOLUTIONS LLC**, a foreign
23 limited liability company; **ROE**
24 **MANUFACTURER; ROE COMPONENT**
25 **PARTS MANUFACTURER; ROE**
26 **DISTRIBUTOR; ROE ADT SECURITY**
27 **DEALER; ROE ADT PRODUCT**
28 **INSPECTOR; ROE ADT PRODUCT**
DESIGNER; DOES 1-20; and ROE
BUSINESS ENTITIES 1-20, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:20-cv-01968

ADT LLC OF DELAWARE AND
JOHNSON CONTROLS SECURITY SOLUTIONS LLC'S
NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446, Defendants ADT LLC of Delaware ("ADT"), and Johnson Controls Security Solutions LLC ("JCSS"), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby file this

1 Notice of Removal to effect removal of this civil action from the District Court in and for Clark
 2 County, Nevada, where it as filed as Case No. A-20-821415-C, to the United States District Court of
 3 Nevada at Las Vegas, and show unto this Honorable Court as follows:

4 1. On or about September 18, 2020, Plaintiff Edythe Maxine Hartman ("Plaintiff") filed a
 5 Complaint ("Complaint") in the District Court in and for Clark County, Nevada, in the civil action
 6 styled *Edythe Maxine Hartman vs. Juan Rivas, et al.*, Case No. A-20-821415-C ("State Court
 7 Action"). True and correct copies of all process and pleadings served upon or available to ADT and
 8 JCSS are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and incorporated herein by reference. The Complaint sets
 9 forth tort claims arising from a September 20, 2019 fall Plaintiff took at her residence located at 3949
 10 Ruskin Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89147 ("Residence"), allegedly resulting in severe and life-
 11 threatening injuries, all or some of which conditions are permanent and disabling in nature, as well as
 12 extensive medical treatment. Plaintiff alleges that a component of the security system installed at the
 13 Residence, identified as a "panic button," failed to transmit an emergency signal. Plaintiff makes
 14 claims for Negligence of a Vulnerable Person; Strict Products Liability; Breach of Warranty;
 15 Negligence; Negligent Hiring; Negligent Training; Negligent Supervision; and Negligent Retention.
 16 See **Ex. A**, Complaint.

17 2. ADT and JCSS were both served with the State Court Action Summons and Complaint
 18 on September 24, 2020.

19 3. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, there is now complete diversity between Plaintiff and
 20 Defendants and, upon information and belief, the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of
 21 \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.

22 4. The Notice of Removal is filed timely. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b), the Notice if
 23 filed within thirty (30) days of receipt by ADT and JCSS of the initial pleading setting forth the claim
 24 for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based.

25 **DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP**

26 5. Plaintiff is a resident of Nevada. See **Ex. A**, Complaint at ¶ 1.

27 6. Juan Rivas ("Mr. Rivas") is a citizen of the State of Indiana. See Declaration of Juan
 28 Rivas, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, as well as the Affidavit of

1 Process Server filed in the State Court Action (*See Ex. A* at p. 28). Mr. Rivas is not, and was not at
2 the time of filing, a citizen of the State of Nevada within the meaning of the Acts of Congress relating
3 to the removal of actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

4 7. Upon information and belief, UTC Fire & Security Americas Corporation, Inc., d/b/a
5 Interlogix (“UTC/Interlogix”), is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located in
6 Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. UTC/Interlogix is not, and was not at the time of filing, a citizen of the
7 State of Nevada within the meaning of the Acts of Congress relating to the removal of actions. 28
8 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1). A true and correct copy of the Entity Information screenshot downloaded from
9 the Nevada Secretary of State Business Portal is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

10 8. ADT is a limited liability company, the citizenship of which is determined by the
11 citizenship of its members. *See Johnson v. Columbia Props. Anchorage, LP*, 437 F.3d 894, 899 (9th
12 Cir. 2006). ADT’s sole member is The ADT Security Corporation, a Delaware corporation with its
13 principal place of business located in Boca Raton, Florida. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1), The ADT
14 Security Corporation is a citizen of Delaware and Florida. ADT is therefore a citizen of Delaware and
15 Florida. ADT is not, and was not at the time of filing, a citizen of the State of Nevada within the
16 meaning of the Acts of Congress relating to the removal of actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

17 9. JCSS is a limited liability company, citizenship of which is determined by the
18 citizenship of its members. *See Johnson*, 437 F.3d at 899. JCSS’s sole member is The JCSS Security
19 Corporation, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located in Boca Raton,
20 Florida. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1), The JCSS Security Corporation is a citizen of Delaware and
21 Florida, thus making JCSS a citizen of Delaware and Florida as well. JCSS is not, and was not at the
22 time of filing, a citizen of the State of Nevada within the meaning of the Acts of Congress relating to
23 the removal of actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

24 10. While Plaintiffs allege counts against several “Roe” defendants, the citizenship of
25 defendants sued under fictitious names is disregarded for purposes of removal. 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

26 11. Plaintiff is a citizen of the Nevada. As Mr. Rivas is a citizen of Indiana, and
27 UTC/Interlogix, ADT, and JCSS each are citizens of Delaware and Florida, complete diversity exists.
28

THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY EXCEEDS \$75,000

12. The amount in controversy in this case exceeds \$75,000, excluding interest and costs, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).

13. Plaintiff affirmatively pleads damages for her separate claims of strict products liability, breach of warranty, negligence, negligent hiring, negligent training, negligent supervision and negligent retention in excess of \$110,000. *See Ex. A*, Complaint, at ¶¶ 69, 70, 88, 89, 105, 106, 116, 117, 128, 129, 140, 141, 152 and 153. Indeed, in each of those claims Plaintiff seeks damages for “significant injuries, all or some of which conditions are permanent and disabling in nature, causing general and special damages ... which amounts easily exceed \$55,000[,]” (*Id.* at ¶ 69) and in the very next paragraph seeks damages for “medical and other treatments for injuries sustained to body, limbs, organs and nervous systems, all or some of which conditions may be permanent and disabling and, all to Plaintiff’s damage in a sum in excess of \$55,000.” *Id.* at ¶ 70. Thus, Plaintiff’s damages in each of those claims is “in excess of” \$110,000, excluding a separate demand for attorney’s fees and costs. *Id.* at ¶¶ 73, 92, 109, 120, 132, 144 and 156.

14. Moreover, Plaintiff prays for double damages for her claim of “Negligence of a Vulnerable Person,” seeking a multiple of damages “in excess of” \$110,000. *See id.*, at ¶¶ 54 and 55 (claiming that defendants are liable for “double the amount of damages incurred by Plaintiff” for allegedly “violating their duty to Plaintiff, a vulnerable person.”).

15. Plaintiff’s own allegations and requests for damages against all defendants makes clear that she is seeking damages “easily in excess” of the \$75,000 amount in controversy required for diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).

CONSENT

16. Mr. Rivas has consented to the removal of the State Court Action.

17. Counsel for ADT and JCSS conferred via email communication with in-house counsel for UTC/Interlogix, who provided consent to removal on behalf of UTC/Interlogix. *See* Email Correspondence dated October 22, 2020, attached as **Exhibit D**.

THE OTHER REMOVAL PREREQUISITES HAVE BEEN SATISFIED

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lkevensen@hollandhart.com
jmdevoy@hollandhart.com

Attorneys for Defendants
Juan Rivas;
ADT LLC of Delaware; and
Johnson Controls Security Solutions LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this 23rd day of October, 2020, the foregoing was filed via the Court's CM/ECF system, which generated a notice of electronic filing with links to true and correct copies of the foregoing document for service, and further that this document and all attachments were transmitted via U.S. Mail, upon the following counsel of record:

James D. Urrutia
Breanna K. Hartmann
MAINOR WIRTH, LLP
6018 South Apache Road
Suite 150
Las Vegas, NV 89148
Telephone: 702-464-5000
Facsimile: 702-463-4440
james@mwinjury.com
bree@mwinjury.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Edythe Maxine Hartmann

/s/ J. Malcolm DeVoy
J. Malcolm DeVoy